In memory of

Mary Agatha Simon

February 8th, 1936

May 29th, 2022

Your life was like a candle, always burning to give light to others. Because of you, our joy is greater, we love deeper and our lives are fuller.

Mary was born in San Nicolas Aruba and as a young girl worked at the Dutch store for many years. Later she worked at the Wilhelmina school and then the health department. Although Mary birthed five children, she raised many more as her home was always open to those in need especially for the children. Some called her the "godmother" of the village. Christmas and birthdays were the best time in Mary's House. Family and friends would come from abroad and her home was a central location for all

During the earlier years in the village on Mary's birthday band members would come to her house and tune up their pans and practice which would lead to an all-night fette. As the years pass what started as
a bram drew bigger crowds and it was Mary who suggested everyone to take the music and all the people who were gathering at her gate to march through the village.

The next year more people came prepared to beat their pots, whistles and some real steel pans, they even had Pedro Bito Wilson, the trumpet player, all in Mary's yard. Before the light of morning came, they would march with the music throughout the village.

And that was how Jouvert began in the village of San Nicolas Aruba.

Over the years Mary has been recognized by government officials, honored by SAC and featured as a legend of Carnaval in magazines.

Mary Simon Hodges's memory will always be in the hearts of her family and friends

May her story be a part of the history of Aruba Carnival